

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 7-12 and 16-19 are pending in this application. Claims 1-6 and 13-15 are canceled by the present response without prejudice. Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. patent 6,622,266 to Goddard et al. (herein "Goddard") in view of U.S. patent 7,031,009 to McCarthy, Jr. (herein "McCarthy"). That rejection is traversed by the present response as discussed next.

Applicants respectfully submit the outstanding rejection has not properly considered and has not even addressed certain features recited in each of independent claims 7, 10, and 16, and which are believed to clearly distinguish over Goddard in view of McCarthy.

Independent claims 7 and 10 are directed to an image processing apparatus connected to a network and operative to report a job progressing condition to a terminal apparatus requesting a job by the network. Independent claim 7 specifically recites:

a thumbnail image data generating device configured to generate thumbnail image data of a first page of the job, *wherein said thumbnail image data is stored in an information source provided in the image processing apparatus;*

an electronic mail transmitting device configured to transmit an electronic mail *having a URL representing the information source* to a mail address assigned to the terminal apparatus when the job is completed or interrupted. [Emphasis added].

Independent claim 10 recites:

means for generating thumbnail image data of a first page of the job, *wherein said thumbnail image data is stored in an information source provided in the image processing apparatus;*

means for transmitting an electronic mail *having a URL representing the information source* to a mail address assigned to the terminal apparatus when the job is completed or interrupted. [Emphasis added].

Independent claim 16 is directed to a method for reporting a job progressing condition in an image processing apparatus to a terminal apparatus requesting thereto a job by a network, and specifically recites operations of:

generating thumbnail image data of a first page of the job, ***wherein said thumbnail image data is stored in an information source provided in the image processing apparatus;***

transmitting an electronic mail ***having a URL representing the information source*** to a mail address assigned to the terminal apparatus when the job is completed or interrupted. [Emphasis added].

The above-noted features recited in each of independent claims 7, 10, and 16 are believed to clearly distinguish over Goddard et al. in view of McCarthy.

With respect to the features noted above, in the claimed image processing apparatus or method a thumbnail image is generated and is stored in an information source within the image processing apparatus. That thumbnail is then transmitted to a terminal, and in addition with the transmitted thumbnail a URL indicating the information source where the thumbnail image is stored in the image processing apparatus is included in the transmission. Such features are also discussed in the present specification for example at page 7, line 7 et seq.

Thereby, in the above-noted claims as written two pieces of information are transmitted from the image processing apparatus to the terminal, those two pieces of information are (1) thumbnail image data and (2) a ***URL representing an information source in the image processing apparatus where the thumbnail image data is stored.*** Neither Goddard nor McCarthy discloses or suggests transmitting the information (2) noted above.

With respect to Goddard and McCarthy applicants first note the outstanding Office Action has not even addressed the above-noted claim features. That is, the outstanding Office Action has not even indicated that either Goddard or McCarthy disclose or suggest transmitting in addition to a thumbnail image data a URL representing an information source

in the image processing apparatus where the thumbnail image data is stored. In such ways the outstanding Office Action has clearly not set forth a *prima facie* case of obviousness of the above-noted claims as written.

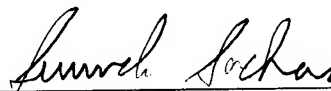
Moreover, applicants respectfully submit Goddard and McCarthy do not in fact disclose the above-noted feature in that Goddard and McCarthy do not disclose or suggest transmitting with a thumbnail image data a URL indicating an information source in the image processing apparatus where the thumbnail image data is stored.

In such ways applicants respectfully submit each of independent claims 7, 10, and 16 as written positively recite features neither taught nor suggested by Goddard in view of McCarthy, and thus patentably define over Goddard in view of McCarthy.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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